

## **JUDGES 16:28-30 -- SIN BLINDS, BINDS & GRINDS - SAMSON'S LAST CRY & HEROIC DEATH AS HE DIES WITH THE PHILISTINES**

*Jdg 16:28-30 Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, "O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!" [29] And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left. [30] Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.*

4/7/18 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

### **PASS ME NOT – Frances J. Crosby – Joslin Grove Choral Society**

*Pass me not, O gentle Savior, Hear my humble cry; While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.*

*Refrain: Savior, Savior, Hear my humble cry, While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.*

*Thou the spring of all my comfort, More than life to me, Whom have I on earth beside Thee, Whom in Heav'n but Thee.  
Refrain (2x)*

**The Biblical Setting:** - Chapters 13-16 encompass the life of Samson, which began with God's calling to a godly Danite couple, Manoah and his wife, who was barren and had no children. The Angel of the LORD appeared to the barren woman and told her that she would conceive and bear a son! The Angel said to be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, eat anything unclean nor let a razor come on the head of her son as he was to be a Nazarite to God from the womb. – A LIFE LONG VOW! - And he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. However Samson lived a life spotted by sin as his physical lust for women often caused him to commit grievous sin. His strength which he had lost by sin, is at the end of his life, recovered by prayer. He died praying. Although his prayer was for vengeance, he killed more of the Philistine enemy at his death, than he did during his whole lifetime. We see God recognizes his faithfulness in that he is included in the "hall of faith" chapter 11 in the Book of Hebrews. However, we also see the tragic waste of Samson's potential due to his **sin, which indeed "Blinds, Binds and Grinds"!**

*Jdg 16:20-23 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him. [21] Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison. [22] However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven. [23] Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice. And they said: "Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!"*

### **Samson's Prayer:**

*Jdg 16:28-30 Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, "O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God,*

- **Samson gained strength to do it by prayer.** That strength which he had lost by sin he recovers by prayer. Most likely, it was only a silent prayer, and was not heard in the noisy crowd; but, though his voice was not heard of men, **yet his prayer was heard of God and graciously answered.**
- He **prayed to God to remember him and strengthen him this once**, thereby owning that his strength for what he had already done he had from God. He prayed it might be afforded to him **once more, to give them a parting blow.**
- That it was not just from personal revenge, **but from a holy zeal for the glory of God and Israel, that he desired to do this, as it appears from God's accepting and answering the prayer.** Samson died praying as did our blessed Savior; but Samson prayed for vengeance, Christ for forgiveness.

*Jdg. 16:28b that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!"*

- Samson's end was both bitter and sweet. God answered his last prayer, and he achieved his greatest victory against the Philistines at the cost of his own life.

- We see here a picture of the believer in disobedience. God used him, but Samson did not benefit from it. His life ended in personal tragedy, shadowed by the waste of great potential.

***Jdg. 16:29-30 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left. [30] Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.***

- Taking hold of the pillars, he bore down with all his might, crying aloud, ***Let me die with the Philistines***, The house came down! This was done, not by any natural strength of Samson, but by the almighty power of God, and is not only marvelous, but miraculous, in our eyes.
- **How justly the God of Israel brought sudden destruction upon them by the hands of Samson.** Thousands of the Philistines had got together, to attend their lords in the sacrifices and joys of this day, and to be the spectators of this comedy; but it proved to them a fatal tragedy, for they were all slain, and buried in the ruins of the temple.
- **Who were destroyed?** All the *lords of the Philistines (Jdg 16:27)*, who had by bribes corrupted Delilah to betray Samson to them. Evil pursued those sinners. Many of the people likewise, to the number of 3,000, and among them a great many women, one of whom, it is likely, was that harlot of Gaza mentioned, *Jdg 16:1*. Samson had been drawn into sin by the Philistine women, and now a great slaughter is made among them,
- **They were destroyed when:** They were merry, secure, and jovial, and far from apprehending themselves in any danger; was when they were praising Dagon their god, and giving that honor to him which is due to God only; when they were making sport with an Israelite, a Nazarite, and insulting over him, persecuting him whom God had smitten.
- **They were destroyed when** Samson pulled the house down upon them, God no doubt putting it into his heart, as a public person, thus to avenge God's quarrel with them, Israel's, and his own.
- We could say that Samson was restored, having this last great victory coming only when he was broken, humiliated, and blind. He could no longer look to himself. **Prior to this we don't often see Samson as a man of prayer, but here he prayed.** He was humbled enough to allow a little boy to help him.
- **Herein exceeded Samson, that he not only died with the Philistines, but rose again to triumph over them.**

### **SUMMARY:**

- Samson shows the **danger of underestimating our own sinfulness.**
- His being blinded by his sin can be seen in practice of **going back to tempting and dangerous places.**
- Samson also shows the danger of **being a loner as a leader.** Everything Samson did, it seems that he did alone. He judged for 20 years and never sought or used help from others.
- Tragically, Samson is a **powerful picture of wasted potential.** He could have been and should have been one of the greatest men of God in the Old Testament; but he wasted his potential.
- We see here another **example of God's grace and mercy** – a life filled with sin, but we also God's grace in answering Samson's dying prayer.
- How **encouraging for us sinners!!** *Jer 15:19 Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, Then I will bring you back; You shall stand before Me; If you take out the precious from the vile, You shall be as My mouth. Let them return to you, But you must not return to them.*
- Samson ended well! **Shouldn't that be our prayer and our goal?**

**Pray Today For:** Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct.

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